Revised policy on allocation of newsprint

3199. SHRI SUBRAMANIAN SWAMY: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have recently announced a revised policy on allocation of newsprint;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof;

(c) whether it is a fact that due to this policy the newspapers are forced to buy indigenous newsprint only from a few selected paper mills;

(d) the number of small mills in the private sector manufacturing and supplying newsprint and what is their total capacity;

(e) whether it is also a fact that the indigenous manufacture of newsprint by these mills have led to a saving of foreign exchange;

(f) if so, what steps Government propose to take to ensure that these mills do not close down;

(g) whether Government have received any representation from any of the small mills in the private sector;

(h) if so, the details thereof; and

(i) what is Government's reaction thereto?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (KUMARI GIRIJA VYAS): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. On 5-5-1992 the Government notified new Guidelines for issue of Certificate for Entitlement of newsprint for the licensing year 1992-93. Copies of the Guidelines have been made available in the Parliament House Library.

(c) Indigenous newsprint allocated by Registrar of Newspapers for India to newspapers who are entitled and apply for it is required to be purchased from the newsprint mills specified in Schedule I of the Newsprint Control Order, 1962, as amended from time to time.

(d) There are about 296 small and medium paper mills manufacturing vairous types of paper and paper board with an annual installed capacity of 17.19 lakh tonnes in the country.

(e) and (f) Indigenous manufacture of newsprint leads to saving of foreign exchange. Taking suitable measures for the sustained growth of the paper industry is a continuous process.

(g) to (i) Some paper mills have requested for their inclusion in the Schedule I of the Newsprint Control Order. Two mills have recently been included in Schedule I of the said Order.

Committee on appointments for programme announcers

3200. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI:
SHRI VENOD SHARMA:

Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that in the recent past Government had appointed a Committee on the appointments for the programme announcers/newsreaders in Doordarshan and another to look into the proper pronunciation of language by the announcers and newsreaders in Doordarshan;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof;

(c) whether these Committees have submitted their recommendations to Government; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and how far these recommendations have been implemented by Government?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (KUMARI GIRIJA VYAS): (a) No, Sir, No such Committee was constituted this year.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.